

Rhode Island College Digital Commons @ RIC

From the Steps of Adams Library

Office of the Library Director

Fall 2012

Fall 2012

Office of the Director, Adams Library

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Adams library continues to play its leading role in embracing change due to the ever emerging information technologies and the growing global digital production and its impact on classroom teaching. According to a **Pew Survey** about younger Americans' reading and library habits, our students are among the age range (16-29) who seem to enjoy access to information through the internet and they account for the growing increase in the use of digital resources. The same survey points out that *"Overall, 47% of younger Americans read long-form e-content such as books, magazines or newspapers."* Our faculty are also increasingly using remote access to library resources, numerous forms of data and even primary sources on line. It is within this context that Adams library has deliberately focused on increasing e-resources and embarked on various digital initiatives. We are delighted to see collaboration with and involvement of our classroom faculty in using LibGuides and in suggesting other digital resources to enrich teaching and learning. We are overwhelmed by the success of the digital commons at RIC. In just two years since its inception, DigitalCommons@RIC now holds 2,180 records, which have been downloaded 215,730 times to date.

Furthermore, Adams library also maintained its importance as a teaching place and a meeting place for study, lectures, exhibits, music and movies. Library resources and activities, in addition to the superb team, furthered Adams library's importance in enriching our students' college experience. The result of which, Adams library received a stellar NEASC evaluation. In a survey students chose the library as number one in service. Lately, another survey conducted by the Unity Center, shows that our students find the library as one of safest places on campus for LGBTQA. Also, thanks to Professor Liz Rowell the library holds one of the most exceptional collections focused on LGBTQA. In a Student Employee Satisfaction Survey, conducted recently, the library received positive results. One student said *"My job [at the library] has helped me not only make friends, but make important connections and academic advances on campus that I never would have had the opportunity to develop only going to my classes and then home again. I wouldn't trade my experience here for anything, and wish it were possible for me to stay longer."*

Finally, we are thrilled that we are contributing so much to the academic wellbeing of our students. It is all about them.

Hedi BenAicha, Director
hbenaicha@ric.edu

O U R N A M E I N L I G H T S !

On March 22, 2012 the Adams Library 'family' spent an evening at the Providence Performing Arts Center enjoying the musical, **"The Addams Family."** PPAC made us feel right at home welcoming our group in lights on their marquee!



Our next PPAC group events will take place on **Wednesday, November 7th** when we'll gather to watch the Broadway musical, **"Elf"** at 7:00 pm. Be sure to also **save-the-date** for the **Sunday, March 3rd** performance of **Blue Man Group!** Limited seating is available at \$50. Contact **emorais@ric.edu** or 456-8052 for more information about either of these events. RSVP by November 30th.

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READ ALL ABOUT IT:

Mary Weber and Women of RIC on page 7; then stay tuned for more about our RIC namesakes in "A History of Named Places and Architectural Development: Rhode Island College, 1958-2012," by Elizabeth Warburton; coming soon as a publication of the James P. Adams Library Director's Office!



Our Staff

Welcome Kieran Ayton, Assistant Professor/Emerging Technologies Librarian

by Ellen Morais

Please welcome Kieran Ayton, newly hired Emerging Technologies Librarian. While he's only been a member of the library faculty for roughly two months, Kieran has really hit the ground running at RIC, wasting no time in implementing technological advances to the library. A RIC graduate ('05), he supplemented his education with a part-time student employment position at the library from 2002-2005 while earning his BA in English. It was through time spent on the reference desk that he first became inspired by his colleagues to pursue a career in library science.



Kieran Ayton, Asst. Professor/Emerging Technologies Librarian

in the state of RI and beyond. RIC is really a melting pot that accepts and attracts all types of students, faculty and staff which contribute to the richness of the campus community." He also enjoys performing outreach and training for the library and the campus community. Kieran serves as a liaison to the School of Management and the Math and Computer Science departments. As such, he has taught several library instruction classes this semester.

Kieran's professional activities include an array of boards and committees from the library field and at RIC where he is a member of the Student Union Advisory Board, the Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) as well as the library's Departmental Technology Liaison (DTL). Other professional activities include serving as vice co-chair of the ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries), a member of the Information Technology Interest Group and a board member of the Rhode Island Center for the Book, where he is currently re-designing their web site.



The library will soon be lending 30 iPads to students, faculty and staff.

Kieran's life is not completely enmeshed in technology, however. In his personal life, he is very interested in holistic medicine and the healing arts. He practices homeopathy and reiki energy healing and is currently working towards a certification in cranio-sacral therapy. Kieran resides in nearby Cranston.■

In their own words...

Nearly fifty student employees contribute to the excellent service provided at Adams Library and they are an important part of our team. Many stay with us through graduation from RIC; some, even longer, as they become part-time weekend supervisors. And still others go on to pursue careers in library science. Please read about the outstanding students we are highlighting below.

Anthony Loffredio Student Intern, URI GSLIS

I am a student in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies master's program (GSLIS) at the University of Rhode Island and as such am required to partake in a Professional Field Experience (PFE) as a final project before graduation. The PFE gives students a chance to work in a library setting and get some solid experience before entering into the 'real world' of librarianship. Since I already work as a graduate student reference librarian and instructor at URI, as well as a substitute librarian for the Providence Community Libraries, I wanted to get a chance to experience some of the "behind the scenes" work done in an academic library setting. Therefore, I decided to do my PFE at the Adams Library in the Digital Initiatives office working with Dr. Kresten Jespersen, whom I also had as an instructor in my cataloging class a few years ago. I have been interested in digital archiving as a career and working with Dr. Jespersen has helped to strengthen that interest and taught me some invaluable lessons in how such archiving is done.



My time in Digital Initiatives has been very rewarding having given me the opportunity to learn a number of different computer programs such as File Maker Pro, Photoshop, and the most recent Adobe/Acrobat software. I have also learned how to create XML files and scan previously published works into PDF files for uploading to the library's Digital Commons (DC). All of the archived materials stored on Digital Commons are specific to RIC and will help preserve its history as an educational institution. Here the intelligent and highly informative work done by RIC students and faculty is shared with the rest of the world. An academic library's digital commons site is a chance for that library to make a unique statement about itself and the university it represents, and this site does just that. From the archived photography done on the Smolski Project, a completely original project taken on by Adams Library and Rhode Island College to preserve the photography work of professor Emeritus Chet Smolski, and the ever-growing Baxter collection, to all of the student masters and doctoral papers as well as the large amount of faculty publication submissions; the Adams Library Digital Commons site contains a wealth of archived information that helps to showcase some of the best that Rhode Island College has to offer from both the past and the present.

Working on various projects in the Digital Initiatives office has helped to considerably improve my computer skills, which is especially important since future librarians are expected to have computer literacy skills when entering into the workplace. I believe that everything I have learned in the Digital Initiatives office will carry over into my professional career as a librarian and am grateful that I had a part in building an interesting and ever expanding digital commons site. Adams Library has been very open to my presence and all of the librarians and staff who I have met have been very supportive and helpful, especially Dr. Jespersen and director Hedi BenAicha. I would like to thank them both for giving me the opportunity to work in the Digital Initiatives office and the entire Adams Library staff for being so welcoming and friendly during my time here.■

Ashlee Fuller Rhode Island College Senior Communications Major

I have been working at the Director's office in the James P. Adams Library since my freshman year at Rhode Island College. In my position I help with the daily workflow of the office and have learned many new skills that I will be able to take with me after graduation. My daily tasks and responsibilities have included the opportunity to assist with PR and marketing of library events and helped me to refine my computer skills. Working in the library has also taught me the importance of organization and how to conduct myself in a professional setting. All of these have helped to shape me into a more outgoing and driven person, qualities that will be important to me as I go forward and discover my career in the field of Communications.



The two main people that have made a memorable and significant impact throughout my college years are the Director of the Library, Hedi BenAicha and his assistant, Ellen Morais. Both Hedi and Ellen have contributed to a great working environment where I look forward to coming to work each day. They are available to address any needs about work or school issues, give advice in a caring way and always express interest in my classes and future plans. I consider them to be my mentors.

Looking back has made me realize what an experience these years have been, and more importantly, what a significant impact my job in the library has had on my life. Yes, classes teach you the fundamentals and processes of your studies and the field that you are working towards. Yet personally, the hands on daily situations and interactions are what teach and train you for the future. Experience is the most significant learning tool that the James P. Adams Library has given me. The memories, experiences and advice that I have received from my co-workers throughout the years are what I will remember the most and take with me after graduation.■

IPADS @ YOUR LIBRARY

by Kieran Ayton

The James P. Adams Library will be lending 30 iPads to students, faculty, and staff in the near future. The iPad lending program is an exciting new step the library is taking to connect the Rhode Island College community with collaborative educational technology for teaching and learning. It ties in with Goal #3 of the college's **Vision 2015 Plan** which is to: "optimize and maintain a welcoming, supportive physical and technological environment."

Over the past four years, the Adams Library has worked hard to redefine its technology role within the campus. We already have a successful 40 laptop lending program which allows students to borrow laptops for in-house use to type papers, perform research, and surf the web. The new iPad lending program will complement our laptop program by allowing the RIC community to test drive the most popular tablet computer on the market and see its many academic and popular uses.

iPads come pre-loaded with a core set of educational apps:

- The **Blackboard app** which allows you to log into your courses
- The **eBrary app** which allows you to read thousands of scholarly eBooks
- Direct links to RIC and Adams Library online resources
- News apps like CNN, BBC News, and the Wall Street Journal
- Note-taking apps like **Pages** and **Goodreader**

And much more!



Above and below are images of the Blackboard app on a James P. Adams Library iPad

Additionally, if you have an Apple or iTunes ID, you can log into the app store on one of our iPads and download any apps you like. There are many free apps in a variety of disciplines like nursing, education, the sciences and more!



The E-Column: Streaming Media

by Judith Stokes

Streaming media -- the audio visual technology that has exploded online entertainment -- has exploded Adams Library's collections, as well. In recent years, while the **NAXOS Music Library** and **Music: Listening Online** were evolving into major streaming music outlets, the Library added **DRAM**, a growing streaming music database of important recordings that have been neglected by the commercial marketplace, ultimately boosting the Library's offerings of online music into the hundreds of thousands of recordings. Publication of the complementary streaming video collections **Opera in Video** and **Dance in Video** prompted immediate requests for purchase.

Meanwhile, the publisher of more than a few popular academic video collections, Alexander Street Press, while amassing new and classic streaming video into substantial disciplinary collections, began marketing their content as "entire films (not clips)" -- music to the ears of weary teachers tired of patching together the online offerings of YouTube and other free resources. The Alexander Street Press online platform, dubbed "VAST: Academic Video Online" offers clip-making, playlist-sharing capability, speed-browsing, searchable transcripts, permanent URLs for clips as well as films, and mobile access, and cross-searching for interdisciplinary material.

Adams Library is now providing access to **VAST: Academic Video Online** both as an interdisciplinary database and as discrete browsable collections. VAST videos are not just complete, but varied, including: documentaries, interviews, performances, news programs and news reels, field recordings, commercials, and raw footage of academic interest.

Streaming video proves to be the ideal medium for rapid knowledge transfer of new laboratory techniques, hence **JoVE: The Journal of Visualized Experiments**, the first ever online peer reviewed, PubMed indexed, video journal of scientific research. JoVE began as a cooperative project of scientists at several large research institutions and grew into a large database with many specialized sections. Adams Library's new subscription to JoVE: General brings to Rhode Island College JoVE's dual benefits of training in new techniques and participation in the scientific community's newest efforts to improve reproducibility of experiments. ■

VAST

Use the libguide, **VAST: Academic Video Online Search Boxes**, <http://ric.libguides.com/vast>, to keyword search from all (VAST) collections. Just enter your search term into the appropriate box and search that database.



Increasing Affordability With Digital Textbooks

by Brendan Ryan

Course textbooks are quite expensive. This presents a financial obstacle for RIC students. One way to help students get a less expensive, and in the end better, education is by adopting digital textbooks. The ubiquity of tablets and eReaders makes this a real possibility. The library is even going to begin loaning out iPads shortly. I've been researching many tools for eBook creation and would be thrilled to help faculty incorporate them into their courses. Flat World Knowledge (FWK) is an amazing resource that I think could really enhance RIC academics.

FWK allows instructors to make customized course textbooks by combining the work of other scholarly authors, open educational resources, and their own material. Respected academics and authors are hired to create textbooks along with supplementary learning materials such as flash cards, study guides, and PowerPoint presentations. All content is hosted

on FWK servers and can be edited in the browser. FWK just introduced a new way to customize textbooks called MIYO (Make It Your Own). RIC faculty could add, reorder, remove, and modify textbook material with ease through the website. The interface is remarkably simple to use, not unlike the experience of editing a basic blog hosted by WordPress. I recently attended a seminar on the topic and would be happy to assist professors with it.

Textbooks from FWK are made available for free online. Students are able to purchase an All Access Pass for \$34.95. In a situation where the pass is too expensive students are still guaranteed access to the material provided they can get Internet access, a resource provided by the RIC library and all public libraries. The pass provides the student with several digital versions of the book and all supplementary materials. The digital copies are presented in formats that allow a student to print a copy or view it on most devices. Electronic files are provided that are compatible with the Kindle, iPad, iPhone, Nook, Kobo, Nexus 7 tablet, and any additional tablets that can utilize common reader apps. There are reading apps available on Windows, iOS, Android, or Linux tablets that will present the material offline. Purchasing an All Access Pass

allows students to make full use of the text at their convenience. It represents an amazing way to reduce the cost of higher education.

FWK books do not expire after their initial use ends. They remain available on FWK servers for instructors to use again. They are a living entity and can be updated and refined to become more suitable. The tremendous freedom this provides to instructors is a profound benefit. Rather than rely on a textbook publisher to direct lessons or the focus of a class, instructors can improve upon what works successfully in a book while eliminating areas of a text that are not as useful. Exercises, links, or multimedia can be added to enrich material. Anything particular about course conditions can be incorporated into the text. For example, a political science course could contain text that investigates particular aspects of present elections or law and applying them to course material. The content of books can be expanded upon or updated by instructors. Rather than have textbooks that may be dated instructors can update certain sections of the text to represent present conditions. ■

For more information, contact: bryan@ric.edu

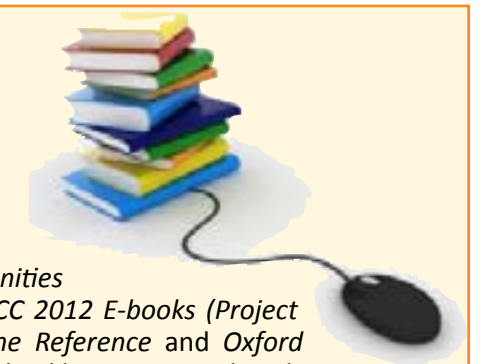
WHAT'S NEW WITH E-BOOKS?

by Carla Weiss

Libraries across the country have responded to the demand of their users to purchase e-books and e-book reading devices. The Adams Library is well aware of this trend and has been offering access to an increasing number of e-books as individual titles or as part of a collection. *Ebrary*, our first foray in the e-book arena, now allows access to over 70,000 academic titles. Over the last 12 months Adams Library patrons accessed over 3,169 *ebrary* titles. What the Library pays for in its subscription is 7 percent of the list price total for these popular books.

According to the Pew Research Center Report of April 5, 2012, **The Rise of e-reading**, one-fifth or 21 percent of American adults have read an e-book in the past year. A great percentage of those surveyed were frequent readers of books in *both* print and electronic format.

In addition to *Humanities E-book Project*, *UPCC 2012 E-books (Project Muse)*, *Credo Online Reference* and *Oxford Reference Online*, the library now subscribes to *Digitalia*. **Digitalia** is a collection of ebooks in Spanish language from Spanish and Latin American publishers, as well as relevant journals that cover all topics of interest. The Library is also increasing its purchasing of reference books from **Gale Cengage**. Print, e-mail or download access differs for each collection. For information on how to download *ebrary* to some e-book readers, please see <http://ric.libguides.com/eBooks>. Also of interest are the libguides **Current Trends in Technology in Education**, **Electronic Books in Adams Library**, and **iBooks**. ■



The Sky is the Limit! Implementing the SkyRiver cataloging module in the Adams Library



by Kresten Jespersen

While I was on a medical leave of absence, the Director of our library introduced the SkyRiver cataloging module to technical services. The obvious reasons were the huge saving in cataloging costs charged by OCLC which enjoyed a virtual monopoly on records produced by member libraries and by the Library of Congress. In a world of shrinking funding for libraries and with the Adams Library taking its place at the center of the educational stage at Rhode Island College under the leadership of Hedi BenAicha, savings are also a way of reallocating financial priorities and getting more out of the budget. But the decision to go ahead and transition to SkyRiver was not just about the bottom line. SkyRiver is also about ease of cataloging: fewer dud records in the search results, and a certain ease of moving over from OCLC to SkyRiver (it took an 89 year old cataloger at the Sacramento Public Library a little over one hour to learn how to use SkyRiver as her primary cataloging module according to a SkyRiver webinar I attended recently). SkyRiver is moreover experienced as an up-to-date and simplified web interface, with an excellent technical support system, and ready access to MARC and RDA protocols from the record file. These simplified improvements over OCLC make SkyRiver easy to employ. I mention the prolonged medical leave of absence because I came to SkyRiver cold, but within hours was up and running with the personal attention of Jamie Kline, our account representative.

The choice and employment of SkyRiver as the cataloging module for our technical services in the Adams Library was part of a larger strategy on the part of the Director to streamline the cataloging department by introducing shelf-

ready books to the Library, and to balance the loss of two librarian catalogers as well as the momentous transition to RDA (Resource Description and Access), the new descriptive cataloging protocol that is taking the place of AACR2R (Anglo-American Cataloging Rules) as the standard for catalogers worldwide. After several training sessions with the cataloging staff, we put RDA and SkyRiver to the test by creating "Constant Data" files for theses, books, audio CDs and for DVDs. The constant data files can be used over and over again by the cataloging staff for original cataloging, and mean that Rhode Island College can be RDA compliant as a cataloging department. We now contribute RDA records to SkyRiver's growing 42+ million record database. SkyRiver is now loading the Harvard database of 12+ million catalog records.

The intention of the Director in turning to SkyRiver was to facilitate prompt and ready access of new materials for the students and faculty, to streamline the cataloging process, to lower the costs of the catalog record, and finally to take advantage of the great cataloging staff in the department by offsetting the loss of faculty catalogers. SkyRiver was the pivot upon which much of these strategies turned. As an adjunct faculty of URI's GSLIS cataloging core course, I was also able to request access to SkyRiver for teaching purposes and Jamie Kline was kind enough to agree to my request. By teaching SkyRiver to library science students, the sky is the limit for the future of these students and for our outstanding catalogers in the Adams Library, Linda McEnery and Chhann Ya.▪

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New Digital Initiatives: The Baxter Collection

by Kresten Jespersen



Village near Paúl on a rocky outcrop, island of Santo Antão, Cape Verde. 1981.

In the early summer of 2012 the Digital Initiatives Department had completed the digitization of the Smolski Collection slides and was poised to take on a new challenge. Special Collections Librarian Marlene Lopes identified a visually rich anthropology collection of about 1000 35mm slides needing digitization. The high quality slides by the anthropologist David Baxter date from 1980-1989 and document the emergence of Cape Verde from Portuguese rule on July 5, 1975. The content of the slides is remarkable for its portraiture of the people, their customs, dwellings, and occupations,

Digital Initiatives: Baxter Collection

continued from previous

and also the sheer beauty of the landscape as seen in the pictures from the Island of São Antão that accompany this article.

A FileMaker database was created that captured the essential metadata of the slide, with attention to the description of each slide and to the keywords that help to pull together similar visual material for the researcher. The raw database is simpler and easier to manage than the Smolski database, and the scholarship that informs the database metadata creation, provided by the Special Collections Librarian, is much easier for the student librarians to acquire than in the peripatetic Smolski Collection. Over the summer, with the help of Anthony Loffredio, a graduate student from the Harrington School of Communication and Media (see feature p. 3) and Andrew Davis, a graduate of Rhode Island College, about 300 records were created.

Melinda Golembeske, another intern graduate student from the Harrington School at URI, and Heather Socha, a senior at RIC and veteran of the Digital Initiatives Department, joined the effort. Adjunct Librarian Brendan Ryan has also been refining his digital skills with some of the more esoteric aspects of database management such as the batch loading of records into the FileMaker Pro database. The Baxter Collection in particular, and the Digital Initiatives Department in general has proved to be a rich and exciting venue for an education in librarianship of the twenty-first century in its application of visual and audio information in digital form to the World Wide Web. Bravo, my student colleagues!▪

In the Archives...

Mary Weber, Mary Davey and Women at RIC

by Marlene Lopes

In 1924 Mary A. Weber joined the faculty of the College, then called the Rhode Island College of Education. For twenty-eight years she taught mathematics here while managing at the same time to oversee the operation of her farm in Illinois. Although she was well known for her self-sufficiency and thrift, many were shocked when at her death in 1965 she left to the College more than \$125,000, the largest bequest it had yet received. Honoring both her service and her generosity, the College gave her name to its newest building.



Mary A. Weber taught mathematics at RIC for twenty-eight years

Weber Residence Hall consisted of eighteen suites, each made up of 10 private rooms, a lounge, and bath facilities, and could accommodate 180 students. In what proved to be a controversial move, but one certainly in keeping with the times, the College designated some rooms for men only. Thus, for the first time, it allowed men and women to be housed in a single building, though in separate and independent areas.



Mary Davey, President Gaige, Marion Wright and others at a rally to promote the bond issue for a new campus.

Mary G. Davey earned both her bachelor's (1941) and her master's (1951) degrees in education at Rhode Island College. In 1954, after teaching in the public schools of Providence and Warwick, she began her career at the College. For twenty-five years she led the offices of public relations and alumni affairs, and her dedication to the College continued well into her retirement. Her successful efforts to rally students and alumni in efforts to pass the bond issue that enabled the Mount Pleasant campus to

become a reality are legendary. Less well known is her connection to the "proper" naming of Mary Weber's building. In a memo dated December 8, 1971, she sets before President Kauffman a modest proposal;

When Weber Hall was named it was understood that, for a few years anyway, a first name would not be included in the title, for what seemed then to be a rational reason: there would be men living in the dormitory and men might object to living in a house that was named for a woman! Now that women are living in a house that is named for Charles B. Willard, this argument no longer seems logical; therefore, I would suggest that from now on the name of Weber Residence Hall be the Mary A. Weber Residence Hall in the same manner that the other halls are called Mary Tucker Thorp and Rose Butler Browne.

And so it was.▪

What's Happening @ Adams...



WE'RE CELEBRATING DIVERSITY ALL MONTH LONG!

Although the College celebrated Diversity Week on October 1-5, the library extended our celebration through the entire month. During this time we highlighted the topic of bullying which is rooted in cultural insularity, that is, the lack of exposure to and empathy for differences in race, family structure, sexual orientation, learning disabilities, and religion. Strategies for recognizing, preventing, and stopping bullying range in focus from elementary school to college and the workplace. Resources on these topics were exhibited in the library throughout the month of October. Please also see the LibGuide at: <http://ric.libguides.com/Bullying> to learn more on this topic.■

MARGARET BURROUGHS COLLECTION

Margaret Taylor Burroughs enjoyed a long and distinguished career as an Artist, writer and educator during which she helped to establish the South Side Community Art Center in Chicago (1941) and the DuSable Museum of African American History (1961). She collected objects and displays to improve black ethnic pride in her community and to preserve important artifacts long before doing so became popular. A graduate of the Chicago Teacher's College and the Art Institute of Chicago, Dr. Burroughs also did graduate work at Columbia University and at Illinois State University. She interned at the Field Museum of Chicago and was made a fellow at the American Forum for African Study. Dr. Burroughs was the recipient of six honorary degrees including a



The faces of my People, by Margaret T. Burroughs, c. 1990s ; Top: Dr. Burroughs

Doctor of Fine Arts from the Art Institute of Chicago and a Doctor of Public Service from Rhode Island College (1990). In 2006 she donated a collection of linocut prints created by herself, her first husband, Bernard Gross, and Mexican artist Leopoldo Mendez, her mentor. This collection is permanently installed on the 4th floor of the library in the corridor adjacent to the Library Director's office.■

LibGuide: http://ric.libguides.com/Margaret_Burroughs

EVENTS	
October 17	Librry Lecture Series: Professor Emily Danforth on <i>The Miseducation of Cameron Post</i>
October 24	Library Lecture Series: <i>MetroLingualism: A (Not So) New Vision for 21st Century World Class Education</i> by Professor Andres Ramirez
November 15	Lunchtime quartet with Sam Breene
November 28	Friends of the Library Annual Holiday Sale (main Lobby)
EXHIBITS	
October	Installation of Margaret Burrows Collection
October	Bullying with accompanying LibGuide: http://ric.libguides.com/Bullying Banned Books Week LibGuide: LibGuide: http://ric.libguides.com/Banned_Books_Week
November (through December)	<i>Veteran's Day: Women Who Served</i> LibGuide: http://ric.libguides.com/Veterans

SVETLANA N. SIDORKINA ART EXHIBIT IN ADAMS LIBRARY

The James P. Adams Library is proud to display a dynamic art exhibit on its main level by Svetlana N. Sidorkina, wife of Dr. Sasha M Sidorkin, Dean of the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development. Svetlana N. Kiseleva Sidorkina grew up in the city of Novosibirsk, Western Siberia. She has a degree in History from the Novosibirsk State Pedagogical University and a Master of Fine Arts from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. The current installation on display (September/October 2012), utilizes some of her recent prints, ceramic sculpture, fiber art, and collage to tell the story of her ancestors in a way that “recall[s] the animalistic visions of humans, pushed into our reality.” To learn more, see the libguide and the exhibit gallery pictures or stop by the library!

Libguide: <http://ric.libguides.com/svetlanasidorkina>
Library exhibition gallery: <http://tinyurl.com/sidorkinaexhibitgal>



In the mushroom world, ceramic sculpture by Svetlana Sidorkina on display in Adams Library

Library Lecture Series

Emily Danforth on *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*

by Debra Thomson

Author Emily Danforth has been questioned repeatedly about the inspiration behind her first novel, *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*. Whether the question was asked during a literary interview or in a supermarket parking lot, she describes her answers as “rarely consistent, and whatever answer I give, I am wholly unsatisfied.” In her recent book talk for an audience of students and faculty in the Adams Library Fortes Room she offered a more satisfactory answer to that question, including a list of some of her life experiences which ultimately served as sources of inspiration for the novel. A coming-of-age story set in her hometown of Miles City, Montana, the novel is described by Danforth as “autobiographically informed, though not an autobiography.”



Emily Danforth spoke about her novel as part of the Library Lecture Series on October 17th

Knowing from an early age that she was attracted to women, and also knowing that she had to keep her feelings secret in that small town, Danforth waited until she left home to attend college before coming out to her family and friends. She explained that she expected that once in New York she'd find the freedom to be herself, but it wasn't until she actually knew an out lesbian that she felt that she could come out herself, recounting her story differently to each person she told it to.

he was gay. The topic sent Danforth on a year or more of research into “conversion therapy”, including taking part in an AA-like meeting for people trying to deny or control same-sex attraction.

She also described the circumstances of the summer of 2006, when she returned home for the first time in 6 years, staying in her childhood bedroom in the converted attic of her parent's home, without internet access or air conditioning, and knew then that she would write a coming-of-age novel set in eastern Montana. Her decision was inspired in part by the story of 16-year-old Zachary Stark, whose parents sent him to a Christian anti-gay program after he told them that

After reading from the opening pages of her novel, Danforth took questions from the audience and later signed copies of her book, which were offered for sale by the RIC Campus Store. Copies of the book are available in the Young Adult and Faculty Publications Collections at the James P. Adams Library.■

Visit: <http://www.emdanforth.com/>

Andrés Ramírez on MetroLingualism: A (Not So) New Vision for 21st Century World Class Education

by Carla Weiss



Andrés Ramírez spoke about the importance of foreign language in education as part of the Library Lecture Series on October 24th

Rhode Island College Professor J. Andrés Ramírez's lecture stressed the importance of bilingualism and beyond that metrolingualism, which he explains is a blending of the city and linguistics. Ramírez compared the traditional method of foreign language instruction in the United States with 21st century learning methods that incorporate culture, connection, communication, community, and comparison. The core of preparing foreign language students in a global society is to learn the language but also the culture, history and politics that expand their knowledge beyond the classroom. This allows the students to achieve life-long learning skills such as critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, communication, and collaboration.

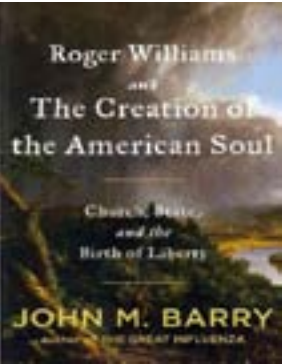
His argument is that the advantages of bilingualism are more fundamental than being able to converse with a wider range of people. Foreign students who learn English simultaneously with their first language have seen improvement in their grade level for English. Some other positive effects of bilingualism are improved long-term memory and word recalling, attention to important information while ignoring the less important, sensitivity to communicative needs of the listener, and the capacity to increase income.

Professor Ramírez also pointed out that in the United States foreign language instruction is not always considered an important component of the educational system. Despite the vast richness and linguistic diversity in this country, K-12 public school enrollment in foreign language courses represents 8.9 million students or only 18.5% of all students, most of whom start studying foreign language in secondary grades.

Professor Ramirez introduced the audience to the existence of the Rhode Island Roadmap for Language Excellence. The goal is that by 2030, the majority of Rhode Island graduates will be proficient in English and at least one other language.■

Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State, and the Birth of Liberty

A biography by John M. Barry; *Review by Tony Carlino*



R o g e r Williams is perhaps America’s strongest champion for religious liberty. In many ways he is America’s most famous dissident, and certainly Rhode Island’s most famous citizen. There have been many biographies written about Williams, but certainly the best modern biography to date – and perhaps the best thus far – has been written by John M. Barry and entitled Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State, and the Birth of Liberty. Barry’s biography is more than a basic telling of Williams’ story. This work is a tour de force, placing Williams against the backdrop of 17th Century England and America and managing this with great insight and skill. A full 143 pages – about 1/3 of the book – concentrates on Williams’ life in England, before he came to America. Here Barry gives us the political and religious history that shaped England and the Massachusetts Bay, and the rise of the Puritan movement. Williams’ early years have always been a bit obscure because of a lack of information, but Barry gives us all that there is and then some. Williams’ relationship with Sir Edward Coke (pronounced “Cook”) as his amanuensis soon blossomed into something much stronger with Coke treating him like a second son. This is a strong section of the book, as the young Williams observed the wars between Coke and the crown over English civil rights in court and out. Here Barry shows that Coke, and to a strong degree Francis Bacon, Coke’s rival, must have profoundly affected Williams. He knew one like a second father, and the second if not personally he certainly knew through Coke’s and the crown’s dealings. As Barry writes: “Coke and Bacon had

already provided his real education. That had come through watching the two circle each other warily and with sinister intent, watching business being done in the Privy Council and the Star Chamber, watching Coke confront the King and go to the Tower of London for it...not only Coke’s ideas but Bacon’s left a strong imprint on him.” These battles against James I, Charles I and against Bacon, with all of their intrigue and political maneuvering, Williams observed very keenly, and the lessons they taught him must have affected not just his own life but the future of America.

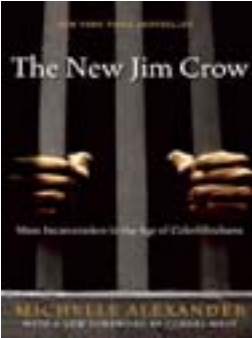
Yet even with such an extensive backdrop as this, Barry does not get bogged down in analysis or opinion. He many times lets the sources he works with speak for themselves, and realizes that Williams, Coke, John Winthrop, John Cotton and others are their own best representatives. For example, Winthrop’s sermon A Modell of Christian Charitie, from which comes the famous metaphor “A Citty Upon a Hill,” has possibly the best summary/analysis here that one could read. Nor is this work plodding, or even boring. Barry’s work is well written, and the narrative is tight and in many respects a page turner. He keeps the story-telling sharp and alive, pulling you into this Puritan world and holding you there with vigorous clarity. Throughout he offers some fine insight into these characters. For example, Barry cites a great description of Bishop Laud, enemy of the Puritans, who when interrogating the Puritan Thomas Sheperd spoke vehemently against him, with such words that “... he looked as though blood would have gushed out of his face, and did shake as if he had been haunted of an ague [acute] fit...by reason of the extreme malice and secret venom...He then fell upon threatening me, saying ‘You prating coxcomb, do you think all the learning is in your brain?’”

This work, of course, is about Williams. Here he is a man who went his own way, who followed his logic and conviction to its full end, or at least as far as he

could go. Here he is the champion of the fundamental right to one’s own conscience, and the champion protector of the worship of God from the state. Barry’s Williams is painted against the full canvas of his times, both of England and New England, and here he becomes truly fascinating. Here was a man who lost everything three times for his convictions; and Barry’s Williams is a far cry from the contemporary accounts about him found in early New England histories, of even from Perry Miller’s one dimensional character whose single idea bore into him like a worm boring into his brain. Nor is he the fickle, almost cowardly Williams of Patricia Rubertone’s Grave Awakenings which states that Williams’ solution to many of his confrontations was to “run away.” Barry’s work portrays Williams as our first and best champion of religious liberty, and gives in these pages the many reasons why the First Amendment speaks first to the freedom of religion.

It might be difficult for us to wrap our minds around the 17th or 18th century consequences of going against the official state church. There is no war against religion in this country. You and I can believe what we want to believe. What some might see as a war against religion is in fact a war against declaring one religion over another, or against declaring my religion or your religion the religion of the land and compelling everyone to bend the knee to it. To this we must always say a resounding no. Williams was the first to establish this principle for Americans. If for no other reason than to become re-acquainted with the struggles that gives us the right to conscience and freedom of religion, Barry’s work deserves a read. It will re-acquaint us with a man who gave up everything for this idea that many of us now take for granted, and if not careful may someday bargain away. Williams (and Barry) would see this as a tragedy, truly a devil’s bargain: “...having bought truth so dear, we must not sell it cheap.”■

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness
by Michelle Alexander; *Review by Judith Stokes*



The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander will pick up your everyday white liberal guilt, tie it in knots, and leave you wondering how anyone could have ever been so simple-minded as to think colorblindness was benign, let alone desirable. While the “war on drugs,” hopped up on federal funds and confiscated property, is systematically exploiting African American neighborhoods to supply the ever-growing prison industry with human beings to incarcerate, the mass imprisonment of young black men is inevitable. Felony convictions of African Americans for simple possession of the kinds of drugs that white youth are routinely expected to “experiment with” are easily obtained, but incarceration is just the beginning. Once branded a felon in America today, one has no future--no job, no loan for tuition, no food stamps to help feed the children, no vote, no jury service. In some states, no amount of restitution can change a felon back into a citizen. Alexander’s study is more than convincing and, as she admits, its lesson is more than challenging.

While the best and brightest African American leaders, like Professor Alexander herself, merely provide evidence for those who insist that racism is not the problem, the future remains grim. Among whites, belief in a “post-racial America” persists even in cities where racial profiling is routine, if unwritten, police procedure. Ironically, while the Great Recession, by busting the public purse, has slowed the growth of mass imprisonment, it has accelerated foreclosures and boosted the fortunes of predatory lenders that target minority neighborhoods. The booming business that has come to be called “Poverty, Inc.” is surely colorblind -- willing to loot any neighborhood where poor and working-class folks cannot get regular bank loans.■



“Because mass incarceration is officially colorblind, it seems inconceivable that the system could function much like a racial caste system. The widespread and mistaken belief that racial animus is necessary for the creation and maintenance of racialized systems of social control is the most important reason that we, as a nation, have remained in deep denial.”

The New Jim Crow, p.178

HHhH
by Laurent Binet, translated by Sam Taylor; *Review by Robert Foreman*

The letters that make up the title of Laurent Binet’s HHhH stand for “Himmlers Hirn heisst Heydrich,” which translates to “Himmler’s brain is called Heydrich,” a statement used to convey the influence of Reinhard Heydrich, SS-Obergruppenfuhrer, Gestapo chief, fellow architect of the Holocaust and governor of the Nazi-occupied portion of what would later become Czechoslovakia. It was an influence that lasted until his assassination in June 1942, which is the subject of HHhH.

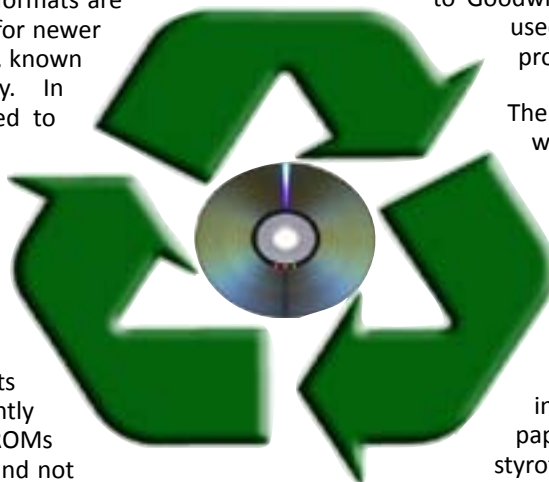
Binet calls his book a historical novel, but it might be an essay on the historical novel that apes the genre it takes as its subject. Binet does render Heydrich’s assassination – an operation in which everything went wrong except for the death of Heydrich – and the ensuing manhunt by the SS that led to the deaths of the two assassins, a Czech and a Slovak. But throughout his telling of the story, Binet wrestles with the problems of the historical novel. How, he wonders, can he, in writing the novel, do sufficient justice to the assassins, men he admires tremendously? How carefully can he do this when in order to tell their story he must essentially rewrite history? Binet’s research can only go so far; he must fabricate details of the two men’s lives in order to make a compelling novel. That he is so circumspect a narrator is in itself poignant, considering that the heroes of his book cut short the life of an agent of a regime that had little regard for any history other than the one it attempted to manufacture.

As Binet undertakes the writing of this narrative, he is suspicious of the undertaking, which makes for a novel that artfully illuminates the lives and deaths of two men (or three, counting Heydrich) and interrogates that illumination just as artfully.■



Recycling Program Expanded by Debra Thomson

In order to keep the library's collections current and relevant, items which are out of date or in obsolete formats are removed from the collections to make way for newer materials and current formats. This process, known as "weeding" is ongoing at Adams Library. In the past, weeded materials were consigned to the dumpster. In recent years, we began recycling the pages of books as part of the college's recycling program, but we did not have a way to recycle other weeded materials such as CDs and VHS tapes and their packaging. Thanks to a recent change in the Rhode Island Resource and Recovery Corporation's plastic recycling program, the library is now able to send nearly all of its weeded materials to be recycled. We recently removed a large number of VHS tapes and CD-ROMs from the Curriculum Resources Collection, and not a single item was wasted. The plastic cases, cardboard boxes and paper inserts all went into our large recycling bins.



The VHS tapes and CD-ROMs were donated to Goodwill Industries, where they will be used in an e-waste recycling training program.

The library continues to look for ways to reduce, re-use and recycle library materials and office supplies. There are recycle bins inside the main entrance for paper, bottles and cans, and used toner cartridges. Every floor has large recycle bins which can now be used for ALL recyclable materials, including all plastics, metals, paper and drink containers (except styrofoam). See our LibGuide at: http://ric.libguides.com/Earth_Day for more information about recycling. ■

Friends of Adams Library Annual Membership Drive

by Debra Thomson

Friends of the James P. Adams Library are having their membership drive for 2013 during October, in conjunction with National Friends of Libraries Week. The Friends have a modest goal of 100 members for this coming year. For as little as \$5.00 for students and \$25.00 for faculty and staff, you can join us as we continue our good work in support of Adams Library.

In past years, the Friends of Adams Library has provided beautiful exhibit cases for the main lobby, display cases for DVDs and journals in the Browsing Area, and many books and DVDs for the library collection. Your membership dollars will be put to good use!



Exhibit cases donated by the Friends of Adams Library

Members will receive reduced admission to Friends events, and a digital bookplate honoring them on the library's **website** (http://www.ric.edu/bookplates/donor.php?DNR_ID=34).

The Friends also offer cultural and social events for members and the campus community.

For more information about the Friends of Adams Library, visit our LibGuide at <http://ric.libguides.com/Friends> or link directly to our membership form at <http://tinyurl.com/92v7mpl>. We look forward to having you as our Friend! ■

5TH ANNUAL FRIENDS OF ADAMS LIBRARY HOLIDAY SALE

Wednesday, November 28, 2012
Library Lobby

"Shop local" with The Friends of Adams Library as we fill the library lobby with local vendors, craftspeople and artisans for the 5th Annual Friends Holiday Sale. You will find plenty of gifts for your holiday shopping while supporting the local economy. Our vendors will delight you with handcrafted jewelry, knitted and crocheted goods, locally made food products and original artwork.

While you're shopping, be sure to buy a few raffle tickets to win prizes donated by the vendors, as well as books and gift certificates donated by members of the Friends of Adams Library.

The sale is open from **10 to 3**, so put us on your calendar and get some of your holiday shopping done right here on campus!



FROM THE STEPS is a publication of the James P. Adams Library PR Committee

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PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE! <http://digitalcommons.ric.edu/fromthesteps/>

